

## K Devlin/Regan ELL Recommendation

Further research is advised on the proposal by the Department of Education regarding changing the current method of funding ELL students. Today, school districts with students who qualify for ELL designation receive the .5 additional weight per student until the student shows enough proficiency in English to test out (5 on the ELPA). The ODE recommends that the additional .5 ELL weight be applied for 4 years for students who initially test at 3 or 4 on the ELPA or for 7 years for students who test at 1 or a 2, and the school district would receive the additional weight even if the student tests out of ELL services. Any change to the current formula should be fully researched and based on best practice. Concerns include whether tracking requirements might become cumbersome, especially for students who are mobile and change districts; the timing of the ELPA in determining the funding level; the funding trigger (first ELPA score vs. an eligibility test score?); whether school districts would be required to provide ELL services without weighted funding if the student is not English proficient after 4 or 7 years; the implications of including full funding for 4 or 7 years if a student has tested out of ELL services; exceptions for students who have had severely interrupted formal education and may require additional time and resources; and any legal implications for students dual identified as ELL and SPED.